

Application No. 09/663,269  
Amendment filed June 4, 2004  
Reply to Office Action dated March 4, 2004

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### Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions and listings of claims.

#### Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): In a communication system including at least one base station and at least one remote station and employing transmit power control, a method for controlling the energy at which a transmit power control command is transmitted, the method comprising the steps of:

determining ~~how important it is that the transmit power control command is correctly received~~ a difference between a received signal quality and a reference;  
and

setting the energy at which the transmit power control command is transmitted based on this determination, the setting including increasing the energy when the difference is determined not to be substantially zero, whether the received signal quality is above or below the reference.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of setting the energy comprises setting the power at which the transmit power control command is transmitted.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of setting the energy comprises adjusting the coding of the transmit power control command.

Claims 4-5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~5~~ 1, wherein if the difference is substantially zero, the step of setting the energy includes decreasing the energy at which the transmit power control command is transmitted.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 6, wherein the energy is decreased by an amount that is a function of the difference.

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Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 8 1, wherein the energy is increased by an amount that is a function of the difference.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the transmit power control is performed for the uplink direction, and the steps are performed in a base station.

*a*  
Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the transmit power control is performed for the downlink direction, and the steps are performed in a remote terminal.

Claim 12 (currently amended): In a communication system including at least one remote station and at least one base station, an apparatus for controlling the energy at which a transmit power control command is transmitted, comprising:  
means for determining ~~how important it is that the transmit power control command is correctly received~~ a difference between a received signal quality and a reference; and

means for setting the energy at which the transmit power control command is transmitted based on this determination, the setting including increasing the energy when the difference is determined not to be substantially zero, whether the received signal quality is above or below the reference.

Claim 13 (original): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the means for setting the energy sets the power at which the transmit power control command is transmitted.

Claim 14 (original): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the means for setting the energy adjusts the coding of the transmit power control command.

Claims 15-16 (canceled)

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Claim 17 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim ~~16~~ 12, wherein if the difference is determined to be substantially zero, the energy at which the transmit power control command is transmitted is decreased.

Claim 18 (original): The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the energy is decreased by an amount that is a function of the difference.

Claim 19 (canceled)

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Claim 20 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim ~~19~~ 12, wherein the energy is increased by an amount that is a function of the difference.

Claim 21 (original): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the transmit power control is performed for the uplink direction, and the apparatus is included in a base station.

Claim 22 (original): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the transmit power control is performed for the downlink direction, and the apparatus is included in a remote terminal.

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